

U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. released the following statement today, following the 222 to 203 vote in favor of the \$550 billion tax cut package:

"President Bush should be proud of his supporters in the House of Representatives today. Their votes in favor of irresponsible tax cuts represented his interests, and not the interests of most Americans. How do we know that? Eighty-four percent of taxpayers across the nation earn less than \$75,000 a year. They might get a \$700 tax break out of this plan. The lower your income under \$50,000, the lower your chances of getting a tax cut that even begins to represent anyone's idea of so-called 'economic stimulus.' Taxpayers who earn more than a million dollars will get a bit more out of the tax-cutting plan. Try at least \$89,000 more! That's more than most Americans EARN in a year!

"This tax plan is made even more objectionable by the way the House Republican leadership rammed it through the legislative process. We were all forced to vote on it, even Republicans who may have had legitimate concerns about the size of the tax cut, without amending the package. That means Democrats did not even have an opportunity to present an alternative plan on the floor of the House.

"Democrats have an alternative stimulus plan that deserved full consideration. It includes job creation, tax cuts that favor the bulk of America's working families, investment tax credits for small business, and support for the states that are struggling to keep from drowning in a sea of red ink.

"Every American deserves better than this latest Republican get-cuts-quick scheme. Whether the tax cut plan winds up being \$550 billion or \$350 billion, there are a lot of better ways for the nation to spend that amount of money. Just ask any American who is struggling right now to find a job, pay rising health care costs, or make time to attend a meeting to fight for improvements at their child's school."